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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF JUNE 23, 1931

We have just passed another milestone, the 34th in the history of the Illinois Society of Architects. The road we traveled last year was steep and dangerous and it led us into the valley of darkness where we had to struggle to overcome the depression caused by the general avalanche that swept our country. Our road is still steep and dangerous, but it is leading upward to the higher planes which we are seeking. It, no doubt, will be a hard up-hill climb which will require the help of each and every member of our organization. It is only through a combined effort we will reach our destination. Let us put a little love and romance into our work. Let us play in between times to make our work easier. For professional jealousy and mistrust we have no use. In order to solve the problems in common, we must co-operate with and seek the co-operation of other civic organizations. We must interest ourselves in the State's and City's affairs as if they were our own.

The fiscal year just ended has been filled with numerous activities on the part of your officers and your committees. It might be well to point out that due to the general set-up of the workings of the Society the heaviest burdens will always fall upon the officers of the Society. They in turn ask the co-operation of the members by having them serve on the various committees. I wish at this time to thank the members of the Board and my fellow officers for the splendid co-operation they have given me during my term of office. I specially wish to thank Mr. Wheelock and Mr. Hall for their untiring work as chairmen of important committees; Mr. Stanhope as editor of the Bulletin; Mr. Palmer for his whole-hearted and untiring help and support he has given me. In addition there is one director, though young in years, who has proven himself at all times a most valuable asset to the Board, our brilliant and straight-shooting Tirrell J. Ferrenz. The loss of our friend, Frank E. Davidson, will be felt for years, but let his memory inspire us to carry on our work as unselfishly and energetically as he did.

The reports of the various committees will be published in our Bulletin and I urge the members to study same and I do hereby invite you to write to the Board any suggestions or criticisms you may have.

The major activities and work accomplished during the past year may be briefly summarized as follows:

The architects of the State are greatly indebted to the Illinois Society of Architects for the work the Society did in establishing through a State Supreme Court decision the right of an architect to file lien on property for which plans have been prepared although the building was not built. This is an outstanding service for the profession.

We have established closer relationship with labor and as an example we may mention our squabble about the ice box drains, which was solved to our satisfaction.

The Survey Bureau is still in existence and we have gone on record as disapproving of it and other certain rulings which have been thrust upon the building industry by the Electrical Contractors and by the Electrical Journeymen within the County of Cook. Why the builders in Cook County should be burdened by extra high costs in these times is beyond our understanding. May the day of reckoning come soon!

We have proven but a week ago that the Society is with labor when labor is right. A resolution endorsing the amendment of the Otis Law was passed by the Society and jointly endorsed by the Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Architects Club of Chicago. Your president and Mr. Palmer went to Springfield on behalf of the bill. We hope the Governor will put the bill on the call for a special session. It behooves everyone connected with the building industry to work for the bill which will make possible \$50,000,000 worth of needed construction at once in Chicago without any increase in taxation. It is a plan that fits in with the recommendation of the Governor's own committee of Unemployment as well as that of President Hoover's committee.

The Building Congress idea is not lost or forgotten. We are planting the seeds and spreading the propaganda now. Through the medium of the Architects Club of Chicago the final work will have to be done. Mr. Alfred Granger can bank on our support and co-operation when he returns from Europe this fall.

The new Building Code (no, I did not say subway) is still in the making. Your president is perhaps personally responsible for the stirring up of this matter which is of so great importance to our profession. All the architects serving on the City's Building Code Committee, all of whom are members of the Illinois Society of Architects, should be congratulated for the work they have done to date and it is hoped that our members now serving will continue to do so to the finish which is now within their reach.

Mayor Cermak and Mr. John Ericsson, Commissioner of Buildings, have signified their desire to have the work completed within three months. I would like to inform the members that the Western Society of Engineers and the Chapter have helped us greatly in this matter.

The joint committee from the Chapter and the Society on "Office Practice" is making splendid progress. Their work will, no doubt, bear fruit. We hope it will be dollars.

A State Society Convention will be held the 26th and 27th of June, 1931, at Indianapolis. We will have three delegates there. This convention is the outcome of the convention held at San Antonio, Texas, April 13. Mr. Hall and Mr. Ferrenz, who were delegates to this convention, gave us most interesting reports of same.

As your president I have been called upon to represent the Society on numerous occasions, far too numerous to be enumerated here. At all times I have preached the high standards of our ethics, the honesty and integrity of the profession, and pleaded for the co-operation of the other societies and civic organizations and have offered in return

our co-operation to any and all movements which will help to better and promote the building industry.

In closing I wish to thank each and every member of the Illinois Society of Architects for their whole-hearted support that they have given me during this, my first term of office, and I want to thank you for attending our meetings. The best testimonial you can give the administration is to attend our monthly meetings. The benefits you derive from this Society is directly proportional to the amount of work you put in on committee work or attending of meetings. President Roosevelt was right when he said "Every man owes some of his time to the upbuilding of the profession to which he belongs."

If any of our members have any criticism to make in connection with any action of the Board of Directors or of anything that may have been done by me I will welcome such criticism and assure the members that I have always tried to guard the best interest of the Society and will continue to do so in the future.

ROBERT C. OSTERGREN,
President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1930—1931

The secretary reports that the Society has held eight regular monthly meetings during the past year and the average attendance for 1930-1931 was forty-six, while the average attendance during 1929-1930 was forty.

The membership of the Society is four hundred thirty-seven (437), four of whom are honorary members.

There has been an addition of eleven (11) new members.

There has been one (1) reinstatement.

There has been one (1) resignation.

There have been nine (9) deaths.

making a net gain of two.

It is with regret that the secretary records the deaths of:

Mr. Louis Bourgeois, Wilmette, Illinois.

Mr. Henry H. Richards, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Lorenz H. Heinz, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. William C. Jones, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. William Rohm, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Frank E. Davidson, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Edward A. Peterson, Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. Nathaniel E. Buser, Mount Morris, Illinois.

Mr. John Hocke, Chicago, Illinois.

The following is a brief account of the more important actions taken by this organization during the past year:

The Building Code Committee of the Society has worked jointly with the Western Society of Engineers, making considerable progress on the new building ordinance.

The Society through its committee has investigated the alleged electrical racket protesting the increase of cost of electrical work.

The Society through their attorneys accomplished a fine piece of work as a result of the Supreme Court's final decision allowing architects right to lien for service in preparing plans and specifications although no building had been erected.

The Society is represented in the following auxiliary societies:

The Architects Exhibition League.

The General Committee for the Chicago Second World's Fair.

The Home Economics Council.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

American Society for Testing Materials.

The Chicago Building Code Committee.

The Donor's Society.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER A. McDOUGALL,
Secretary.

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee of the Society was not as active as they might have been this year owing to the prevailing condition in the profession. The Committee did not deem it wise to put on a drive for new members.

However, we beg to report that during the past year we secured 11 new members, 1 reinstatement and lost 9 through

death and 1 by resignation. The total membership now being 427.

The Committee desires to extend its thanks and appreciation to the Board of Directors for their co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. BERNHAM.

JOHN REED FUGARD.

LEON F. URBAIN.

ARCHIE HUBBARD.

H. L. PALMER, Chairman.

REPORT OF STATE ART COMMITTEE

The activities of the State Art Committee of the Illinois Society of Architects and the board of Art Advisors of the State of Illinois have more or less coincided. Joint meetings have been held on the matters requiring attention. They are as follows: A meeting was held on December 12, 1930, at which the proposed filling in of the lake front harbor by the Plan Commission and the South Park Board was discussed. It was unanimously voted to oppose this action on the ground that added park was not needed and the harbor as existing was incorporated in the plan of Chicago. We were assured by the Plan Commission that the project had been dropped indefinitely and we were also assured by the State of Illinois that they would file our protest when needed.

Your committee was called in for consultation on the proposed State Street bridge. This we gave, advising sculpture on the bridge heads and suggesting that the Ferguson fund provide the sculpture. The revised drawings have not as yet been presented. We also wrote a letter to Governor Emmerson urging the utmost beauty possible in the Illinois Exhibition building at the Century of Progress.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS E. TALLMADGE,
Chairman.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee has been called upon several times by the National Council Architectural Registration Boards for personal references of architects applying for reciprocal transfer to other States, and in all instances found in favor of said inquiries.

Respectfully submitted,

H. L. PALMER.

W. A. McDOUGALL.

H. B. WHELOCK, Chairman.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS

Down through the centuries of the Christian era attempts have been made to discover the reasons for the excellence of Greek design and to prove that it is based on a particular series of units. Some two hundred and sixty books and articles on this subject have been published. Ernest Flagg is the latest one to indulge in this study and his recent series of articles in Architecture provides a most interesting speculation.

Usefulness of Modules in Design

In addition to the matter of pure design there are some intensely practical aspects of this problem. Your representative is now serving on a committee which is making a most serious attempt to effect a co-ordination of building units. Mr. Kern has stated the problem most lucidly: "For example, we have standard or stock sizes of glass. If we attempt to hold to standard or stock size glass we encounter difficulty in adopting standard or stock size sash. If we adopt standard or stock size sash we run into difficulty in adopting standard or stock size frames, since, depending upon whether the frame is of metal or wood and whether it is casement or double hung, we introduce a variable. If we adopt a standard or stock size frame we automatically standardize masonry openings for these stock frames, but when we attempt to build these standard masonry openings it is only by chance that the standard or stock face brick or the backing tile are of dimensions which permit the building in of these standard openings without cutting and frequently materially weakening the construction."

This shows how standardization in one line can be carried so far that it blocks standardization in other lines. It has been proposed that the dimensions of a brick plus a mortar

joint be used as a module but this is open to serious objections inasmuch as smooth brick usually demands a thin joint while rough brick requires a wide joint.

The art of building is far in arrears in the adoption of improved methods such as characterize most modern industries and there is a general feeling that the solution of this problem is necessary to effect a simplification in methods and a reduction in costs of building.

Concrete Building Units

A specification covering the manufacture of hollow concrete building blocks is now in process of development and will be presented to the A. S. T. M. for approval as a tentative standard at its annual meeting in June. All of our criticisms of this specification have been found acceptable with the exception of our disapproval of a provision which permits retesting of units in cases where the first test has proven unsatisfactory.

Information on the strength and durability of masonry of hollow concrete units is rather meager but it is expected that additional data on this subject will be obtained from investigations now under way or contemplated.

Hollow Tile Changes

Two general revisions of the various hollow tile specifications are now being recommended. The first consists of the deletion of all provisions pertaining to fire resistance. At the time of their inclusion in the standards there were but few published data on the fire resistance of hollow tile masonry. It is considered that these requirements are no longer of value in the specifications because they pertain to the properties of walls rather than of individual units, no use is being made of them in the purchase of tile, and the information which they contain is covered elsewhere in much more detail and completeness.

The second change consists in the change of the designation of "hollow burned-clay tile" to "structural clay tile." We have been opposed to this change, the principal reason being an objection to calling a material "structural" which has no structural qualities, such as partition tile for example. The tile associations and manufacturers have widely advertised this new name and it now seems on the way toward general acceptance.

Respectfully submitted,
TIRRELL J. FERRENZ.

AN IMPORTANT LETTER
MASTER ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSN.
304 South Halsted Street
Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Robert C. Ostergren,
155 N. Clark Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Ostergren:

Enclosed please find the article on the "Electrical Contracting Situation" in the City of Chicago, contributed by Mr. Edward A. Ribal for your publication.

Hoping this meets with your approval.

Yours very truly,
MASTER ELEC. CONTR. ASSN.,
F. J. Boyle, Secretary.

The Electrical Contracting Situation

A movement within the electrical contractors' ranks directed against the local union has been interpreted by competent observers as the opening of a serious effort to test the stability of the protested Electrical Survey Bureau. Several contractors on July 9, 1931, filed a suit in the Superior Court asking for a temporary injunction to restrain the Local Union 134 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and its officers from calling strikes on jobs being executed by contractors who did not have their labor wage bond written by C. W. Olson Company, the agency specifically required by the Union. Judge Gentzel granted the defendant ten (10) days in which to file an answer to the petition, and in the meantime the summer vacation period began, **probably** postponing the issue until the fall term.

The union officers, as well as William McGuineas and W. J. Collins of the Electrical Survey Bureau, filed affidavits setting forth the benevolent and wholesome character of the C. W. Olson wage bond requirement; and these arguments, together with the contractor's original bill, should be

carefully read by those architects who are interested in retaining contract purchasing power for their clients. If the architect confines his effort strictly to design and superintendence, he is not directly affected by the result of the controversy. If he extends to his client a broader service that includes the purchasing of contracts, then the problem becomes his own.

Regardless of whether or not a conspiracy between a group of contractors and certain union officials really exists, and regardless whether or not such an understanding, if it is proved to exist, is extra-legal, there can be no doubt that the insistence upon the C. W. Olson bond affords a powerful weapon against the operation of the independent contractor and potentially affects contract costs.

To make it clearly understood, the union, allegedly to protect its members from wage losses, requires an unlimited wage bond, a unique feature in industrial relationship: a further requirement is that this bond must be written by C. W. Olson Company, bonds submitted by other companies having been refused.

The power for mischief, of course, occurs in the fact that C. W. Olson may summarily cancel out a contractor's bond and thus give the union an excuse for striking his jobs. This condition obviously would leave the independent contractor entirely at the mercy of a controlling group, should such a group exist.

Although the Electrical Survey Bureau is mentioned only incidentally in the contractor's bill, affidavits have been filed along with those of the union in support of its respectable character as an independent business institution.

That the subject will be stoutly contested by both sides seems certain, and it follows that all architects interested in its outcome should be alert for evidence to demonstrate whether the recently organized elements known as the Electrical Survey Bureau constitute a progressive and wholesome addition to the building industry or an offensive racket. To stand idly by would be to deny the responsibility of leadership that has been hard-won and maintained generally by an integrity that has established architecture as a profession, above the sordid level of business purely for profit.

Except in a limited class of building, the architect has long been the owner's "purchasing agent" and to retain his client's confidence, he must demonstrate that he is competent to buy a dollar's worth of building for a dollar. Otherwise, he must be content with only such construction work that is absolutely necessary and forget building as a desirable form of surplus investment.

EDWARD A. RIBAL.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Our members are requested to peruse carefully the above paper on the electrical situation, and are invited to send to the editor their comments with reference to this important subject on electrical contracts recently let in their offices.

TAKE GOVERNMENT OUT OF ARCHITECTURAL BUSINESS

The Illinois Society of Architects is firmly committed to the desirability of having architects in private practice handle all projects under the Federal building program. At a regular meeting on August 11th, the Board of Directors endorsed the plan initiated by the American Architect for petitioning the Secretary of the Treasury to get the Government out of the architectural business. The following petition was drawn up and approved:

To
Hon. Andrew G. Mellon,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

1. We, the undersigned, believing—

That all governmental buildings should be designed by the best architectural talent available, utilizing the services of local engineers, contractors, labor and materials wherever feasible;

That all governmental buildings should conform to local needs, promote civic ideals, and be in harmony with the finest existing architecture in every locality; and

That maintaining architectural offices by the Government to design public buildings is fundamentally wrong in principle because it places the Government in direct competition with private enterprise;

2. Therefore, respectfully request—

That the Government abandon the policy of designing public buildings and limit its architectural activities to a supervisory and consulting capacity; and

That local architects, engineers, contractors, labor and materials be employed to the fullest possible extent in designing and executing governmental building projects.

Signatures Desired

It is our intention to give this petition wide circulation and secure as many signatures as possible from all the various parties engaged in the building industry and allied activities. The petition will then be forwarded to the American Architect for presentation to the Secretary of the Treasury in such a manner as to secure the greatest possible chance for favorable action.

It will be remembered that early this spring the Treasury Department at Washington announced that a "limited" number of Federal building projects would be assigned to architects in private practice and further that all buildings costing under \$150,000 would be handled by the office of the Supervising Architect as these buildings were of such a size and character that plans for certain buildings already constructed could be readily adapted for re-use. Up to date an average of two or three buildings in each state have been handled by outside architects and we now hear that the assignment of additional projects has been definitely abandoned.

Stock Plans Again

We have contended from the very beginning of the present Federal building program that the Government should get out of the architectural business. In this we have not initiated any new ideas but have merely been following out the thought of constructive, far-seeing business men everywhere that one of the most potent forces retarding the return of prosperous conditions is the meddling of the Federal Government in private business.

The architectural profession is not primarily interested in obtaining commissions for its members although that would be of real benefit during the current period of no work. We believe that the old procedure in designing and constructing governmental buildings presents a grave danger of an unwarranted waste of public funds and a more serious danger of foisting upon the country a group of stock designs offensive alike to the good taste of the community and its inherent right to the best expression that art can produce.

Each Community Entitled to Highest Standard

Governmental buildings should set a standard for the inspiration of local activities, the improvement of local architecture and the generation of civic pride. Most of the Federal buildings will be conspicuously located and will be regarded by many as the best expression of American architecture. What inspiration can any community obtain from a stock design in its midst which has been deemed good enough for any ten, twenty or thirty other localities?

Governmental buildings should not only conform to local needs but they should be in harmony with local traditions. The most competent local architects should be selected to design local buildings. They possess a keener understanding of local problems, needs, ideals, traditions, labor and materials than any distant bureau could ever hope to obtain. They can be depended upon to put the inspiration of real constructive zeal into the design of these structures.

Sign the petition and get others to do likewise.

PRESIDENT OSTERGREN APPOINTED TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The city administration and the public are to be congratulated on the appointment of President Ostergren as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 1931-1932**Editor Monthly Bulletin**

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NOTICE

THIS VOLUME IS INCOMPLETE

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES ARE ON ORDER:

Vol. 16	No. 1	August 1931
	No. 2	September 1931
	No. 3	October 1931
	No. 4	November 1931
	No. 5	December 1931
	No. 6	January 1932



